

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 1522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINTS, RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH ON THE ECONOMY

REF: BUCHAREST 1480

1. CEAUSESCU'S LONG APRIL 11 SPEECH TO CENTRAL PARTY AND STATE CADRES PUBLISHED APRIL 13 IS HIS FIRST MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT SINCE REORGANIZING THE GOVERNMENT TWO WEEKS AGO. IT IS CHIEFLY NOTEWORTHY FOR SHARP CRITICISM OF WORK STYLES IN MINISTRIES AND OTHER INADEQUACIES WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN WIDESPREAD AND CONTINUE TO LIMIT CEAUSESCU'S AMBITIONS FOR ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM A PERSON PRESENT AT THE MEETING, CEAUSESCU WAS BUSY DURING SPEECHES OF OTHERS (REFTEL) DRAFTING OR REDRAFTING LARGE PORTIONS OF HIS OWN SPEECH--APPARENTLY REACTING TO WHAT WAS BEING SAID.

2. CEAUSESCU DEMANDED STRINGENT MEASURES TO REDUCE BUREAUCRACY AND PAPERWORK EVEN TO POINT OF CUTTING PAPER SUPPLY IN HALF. AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS WAS ALSO SHARPLY REDUCED TO COMBAT

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EXCESSIVE BUREAUCRATIC RIGIDITY. DEMANDS ON MINISTRIES TO INCREASE EXPORTS ALSO STRESSED ALONG WITH PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALREADY KNOWN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BODY IN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY WITH MISSION OF ENCOURAGING COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN ENTERPRISES. IN THIS CONNECTION, COUNCIL OF STATE DECREE OF 12 APRIL CHANGED NAME OF MFT TO "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION".

3. CEAUSESCU SEEMED ESPECIALLY HARD ON MINISTRY OF EDUCATION INCLUDING POINTED CRITICISM OF "THE MINISTER" HIMSELF. ALTHOUGH NICULESCU-MIZIL WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, CEAUSESCU'S CRITIQUE WOULD SEEM TO SUPPORT OUR VIEW THAT FURTHER DECLINE IN MIZIL'S FORTUNES MAY BE EXPECTED. CEAUSESCU ALSO CRITICIZED "SOME MINISTERS" AND "SOME COMRADES" IN OTHER CONTEXTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ADVOCATE MORE FLEXIBLE OR GENERAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. ALTHOUGH THIS CRITICISM WAS NOT AS POINTED AS THAT DIRECTED AT MIZIL, IT COULD IMPLY INTENTION TO INSTITUTE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL CHANGES IN SOME OTHER MINISTRIES AND MAY ALSO SIGNIFY A RETURN TO A MUCH MORE RIGID SYSTEM OF PLANNING THAN HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

4. ALTHOUGH BUCHAREST MAYOR CIOARA HAD FOR FIRST TIME NOT REFERRED TO HIS EARLIER PROMISE TO FULFILL CITY PLAN IN FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS, ACCORDING TO SUMMARY OF HIS SPEECH CARRIED ON APRIL 12 (REFTEL), CEAUSESCU DID REFER TO BUCHAREST'S STANDING PROMISE OF FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS AND EXPRESSED "MUCH SATISFACTION" THAT THIS PROMISE WAS BEING REAFFIRMED. CONSIDERING THIS DISCREPANCY OF TOME BETWEEN THE SPEECHES OF CIOARA AND CEAUSESCU AND KNOWING BUCHAREST'S DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING THIS ONCE POMPOUSLY ENUNCIATED PLEDGE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CIOARA IS TRYING TO GET OFF THE XHOOK BUT THAT CEAUSESCU WON'T LET HIM.

5. PRESS ALSO CARRIED TEXT OF "RESOLUTION" ADOPTED BY MEETING WHICH PREDICTABLY FOLLOWED CEAUSESCU'S VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING ONE FOR MAKING SUCH SESSIONS AN ANNUAL AFFAIR. ONE INTERESTING POINT OF RESOLUTION WAS ITS REFERENCE TO CEAUSESCU AS "MOST PROMINENT" PERSONALITY

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OF ROMANIAN PARTY AND PEOPLE, "MILITANT AT THE FRONT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AND WORKERS MOVEMENT" AND "FIRST PRESIDENT" OF THE REPUBLIC. THE SECOND ASSERTION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY NOT PASS UNNOTICED IN OTHER COMMUNIST CAPITALS.
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